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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Manti-LaSal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, Utah 84501

2820

October 18, 1982

Mr. Ron Naten
Office of Surface Mining
Brooks Towers - 1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202



Dear Mr. Naten:

The Forest Service has reviewed the preliminary copy of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining's Findings Document, Notice of Decision, Cumulative Hydrologic Impacts, Bond Estimate, Stipulations and the Technical Analysis for the Crandall Canyon Mine (Genwal Coal Company, Inc.) dated September 27, 1982. The following are the results, findings, and recommendations from our review:

Findings Document

6. The applicant has the legal right to enter and begin underground activities in the permit area through two Federal leases: SL-062648 and SL-050655 (786.19[f]) (see MRP, pages 6, 10, 11).

SL-050655 is in Valentine Gulch and is a totally separate action. The proposal at hand deals only with SL-062648.

Current construction plans call for construction outside the lease area. A Forest Service Special Use Permit is required for mine site construction activities off the lease.

1. The final construction of the sedimentation pond must be certified by a registered professional engineer after construction is complete.
2. The 23 management requirements outlined in the Environmental Assessment prepared and approved by the Forest Service January 29, 1982, must be followed.

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

III. Technical Analysis

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"Access to the site has proved to be a major factor in its development. Considerable cooperation and planning has been necessary with the U.S. Forest Service who wish to maintain the access through the site to the upper reaches of the canyon after termination of mining operations. The road has been designated as a Forest Development Road and hence, is not a public road. However, it may be used by the public, although usage is subject to Forest Service discretion."

We feel that this should be expanded to include access through the mine site during mining.

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"The applicant has acknowledged that the Division will determine the practicality for postmining topography as it should be ultimately implemented (see page 12, Technical Analysis Deficiency Response, May 25, 1982). The applicant has not submitted specific and detailed postmining reclamation cross sections of the surface topography. Based upon Maps G01-C-016 and -017, the Division will determine the adequacy of final efforts which will follow, as nearly as possible, the premining condition."

The Division will coordinate this effort with the Forest Service.

Forest Service management requirement No. 22 requires that a road right-of-way across the fee property held by Anaconda Minerals Company (Beaver Creek Coal) in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 5, T16S, R7E be obtained. Final negotiation of this right-of-way is currently in progress between Forest Service, Genwal Coal Company, and Anaconda Minerals Company. In the interim until the ROW deed is completed, Anaconda Minerals Company has requested that the Forest Service administer the fee land identified in the attached plat as part of the approved operations during the construction process. The Technical Analysis should be revised to formally designate this responsibility to the Forest Service.

In addition to these recommendations, we request that three complete sets of final approved construction plans, complete with all changes and modifications, be transmitted to our office for Forest use. We also request that a pre-construction meeting be held locally prior to actual construction beginning.



REED C. CHRISTENSEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Genwal Coal Co.
DOG&M
D-3

Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact

Genwal Coal Company has submitted a Mining Permit Application to develop the Crandall Canyon Mine on Federal Coal Lease SL-062648. The proposed mine is located in the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Price Ranger District, in Emery County, Utah. A Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team (I.D. Team) has evaluated Genwal's mining proposal and an Environmental Assessment has been prepared. Based on the results of this Environmental Assessment, the responsible Forest Service official has decided to concur with the approval of Genwal's proposed mine subject to the management requirements specified for Alternative Two in the Environmental Assessment. The actual approval documents and mining permit will be issued by the responsible State and Federal agencies (Utah DOGM and OSM).

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a determination has been made through the Environmental Assessment process that development of the proposed mine will not create significant impacts to the human environment. An Environmental Impact Statement, therefore, will not be required. This determination was based on consideration of a number of factors which are discussed in greater detail in the Environmental Assessment. The primary considerations are as follows:

1. Compliance with the specified Forest Service management requirements will eliminate any significant residual impacts caused by the proposed mining project.
2. The I.D. Team did not identify any prime range, farm, or timber lands, wet lands, alluvial valley floors, paleontological resources, or threatened or endangered plant and animal species that would be impacted by the proposed project.
3. An archeological site was identified in proximity to the proposed mine development; however, appropriate mitigating measures were prescribed by the Forest Service and implemented by Genwal Coal Company. No adverse impacts to this resource should result from the proposed project.
4. The I.D. Team has determined that portions of the Crandall Creek 100-year floodplain could be impacted by the proposed mine developments. A floodplain survey has been completed and appropriate mitigating measures have been incorporated into the final construction designs. Encroachment of the mine and access facilities onto the designated floodplain will not adversely affect these facilities, the floodplain values, or any downstream values.
5. Coal mining has historically been an integral part of the local and regional economy and lifestyle.

6. Genwal Coal Company is conveyed certain rights to enter and develop these coal reserves by their outstanding Federal coal lease SL-062648.

Implementation of this action may take place when the proponent has achieved compliance with the Forest Service management requirements specified in the Environmental Assessment. Copies of the Environmental Assessment, mining permit application, and other pertinent documents are on file and available for review at the Manti-LaSal National Forest Supervisor's Office. The responsible Forest Service official is Reed Christensen, Forest Supervisor, Manti-LaSal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

Responsible Official:



Forest Supervisor

10/18/82

Date